

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 10797 081536Z

47

ACTION AF-06

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R 081304Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6213

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 10797

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC, CGEN
SUBJ: ASSISTANCE TO CITIZENS

REF: STATE 202549

1. DIRE DAWA IS APPROXIMATELY 240 MILES OVERLAND FROM ADDIS ABA. THERE ARE NO OFFICIAL AMERICANS THERE, ONLY CERTAIN AMERICAN MISSIONARY ORGANIZATIONS AND RESEARCH SCHOLARS. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT WELFARE/WHEREABOUTS INQUIRIES BY ANY AMERICAN, OFFICIAL OR NON-OFFICIALS, ON BEHALF OF ETHIOPIAN OR THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS WOULD BE MOST UNWISE IN VIEW OF THE LIKELY SUSPICION SUCH ACTIONS WOULD ENGENDER AMONG LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND PERHAPS AMONG OFFICIALS IN ADDIS AS WELL. IN OUR OPINION, QUESTIONS OF THIS NATURE, HOWEVER DISCREET, COULD ENDANGER THE WELL BEING OF BOTH THOSE WHO ARE INQUIRING (IF UNOFFICIAL AMERICANS) AND THOSE WHO ARE THE OBJECTS OF SEARCH.

2. IN ADDIS AND ASMARA IT IS SOMETIMES POSSIBLE FOR US TO MAKE DISCREET INQUIRIES IN SUCH CASES. IN MORE REMOTE AREAS, HOWEVER, WE SUGGEST THAT THE DEPT SHOULD REFER THIS AND FUTURE CONGRESSIONAL AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTY QUERIES TO THE ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. WE BELIEVE THAT ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ASCERTAINING THE WELFARE OF ETHIOPIANS AND OTHER NON-AMERICANS RESIDING IN ETHIOPIA SHOULD REST WITH THEM, PARTICULARLY SINCE WE CONVINCED THAT MORE HARM THAN GOOD WOULD RESULT FROM ANY INVOLVEMENT BY EMB NO MATTER HOW HUMANITARIAN THE INTENT.
HUMMEL

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